Indiana House of Representatives
News and Information

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STEVENSON'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana House passed State Rep. Dan Stevenson's (D-Highland) local government biennial budget legislation today by a vote of 95 - 0.

House Bill 1629 would give political subdivisions the opportunity to use a budget covering two years instead of having an annual budget, which can be a costly and ineffective use of time and resources, especially for larger cities.

Gary Mayor Scott King initially proposed this legislation to Stevenson, who agreed that cities like Gary should have the option to use a biennial budget to save money, time, and energy.

"Like state budgets, local budgets should have the option to be on a biennial system," he noted. "A two-year budget will make things easier on local governments and will allow them to be more effective."

By allowing local governments to go to the biennial system, Stevenson said they will have the opportunity to review the effects the previous budget had on the economy before having to decide how to allocate funds for the next budget.

"By the time an annual budget is completed, it's often already time to start thinking about the next year's budget," said Stevenson. "That does not allow very much time for a thorough assessment of the effects a current budget will have in the future, which is necessary knowledge to create another budget plan."

Stevenson emphasized that this bill would merely provide an option for local governments and is not mandatory. Each community will have to assess whether it would be beneficial to implement a two-year plan rather than using the traditional annual budget.

State Senator Gary M. Dillon (R-Columbia City) and State Senator Frank Mrvan (D-Hammond) will sponsor the bill in the Senate.

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